

Remarks

Claims 7-31 are pending in the subject application. Applicants hereby reaffirm the election to prosecute the invention of Group IV (claims 7 and 26) with traverse. By way of this amendment, claims 7 and 26 have been amended, claims 8-25 and 30-31 have been canceled (as directed to non elected inventions) and claim 32 has been added. Accordingly, claims 7, 26-29 and 32 are currently before the Examiner and read on the elected invention. Favorable consideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

With respect to the restriction requirement, Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of Groups IV and V, to the extent these groups are drawn to sodium salts of celecoxib. Applicants respectfully submit that a search directed to these inventions would not constitute an undue burden on the Patent Office and have a similar field of search. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement, to the extent that sodium salts of celecoxib are being claimed, is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed or if the Examiner believes a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account No. 19-0065.

Respectfully submitted,



Frank C. Eisenschenk, Ph.D.

Patent Attorney

Registration No. 45,332

Phone No.: 352-375-8100

Fax No.: 352-372-5800

Address: P.O. Box 142950

Gainesville, FL 32614-2950

FCE/mnl/sl